

SUMMARY OF RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Inventive Groups. The Examiner has required restriction of claims 1-38 to one of the following Inventive Groups under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-22, drawn to a method for increasing the ultrasonic visibility of a therapeutic device, classified in class 604, subclass 265.
- II. Claims 23-38 drawn to an injection needle, classified in class 604, subclass 265.

As the basis for this restriction requirement, the Official Action states the following:

Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the process can be practiced by other medical devices such as catheters and cannulas.

ELECTION

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-22).

CONCLUSION

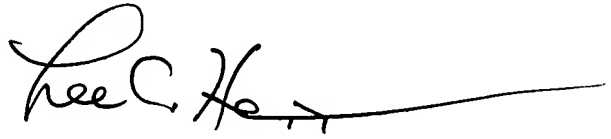
Based upon the above remarks and further to the Petition to Make Special filed in this matter, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to expeditiously proceed with the examination of the claims pending in this application.

Attorney Docket: 25523
Serial No.: 10/601,312

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this matter, he is welcomed to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number and address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 3, 2005

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